

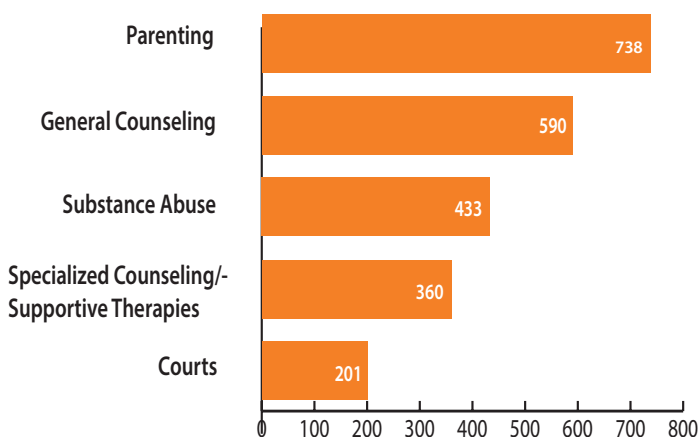


## DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

### CHILDREN'S COURT PROJECT

**211** LA County (211 LA) has a unique and innovative partnership with the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court in Los Angeles to provide parents/caregivers immediate access to referrals for programs in the community mandated by the court. On average the 211 Children's Court Project receives 2,000 requests for information and referral per year. Since reunification of children with parents is driven by compliance with court orders, the 211 LA Children's Court office is a critical point of contact and support.

#### Top 5 Service Requests (Jan- Sept 2014)



#### What are the Goals of Developmental Screening at Children's Court?

- Ensure early and effective identification of health, mental health, developmental, and educational needs of children in foster care (before 36 months).
- Provide evidence-based developmental behavioral screening for children in foster care at risk for autism or other developmental disabilities.
- Provide care coordination to ensure that children receive further evaluation or interventions as deemed necessary.
- Minimize fragmentation of services by working through a seamless network of organizations already in partnership with 211 LA.

#### How is Developmental Screening Offered at the 211 LA Children's Court Office?

- Parents/caregivers already accessing 211 LA at the Children's Court are offered the opportunity to answer questions about the development of their young children (birth to 5 years).
- If interested, parents/caregivers are then connected to a 211 LA Care Coordinator Specialist who conducts the evidence-based developmental behavioral screening.
- Based on screening results, the Specialist works closely with DCFS Children's Social Workers, Children's Law Center attorneys, biological and/or foster parents, and other caregivers to ensure the care coordination necessary for the child to receive identified intervention services.



## EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS

Nationally, 11% of children screened are identified as “high risk” for developmental delays or disabilities. The identification rate by 211 LA screening of children in foster care is close to three times the national average (29%).

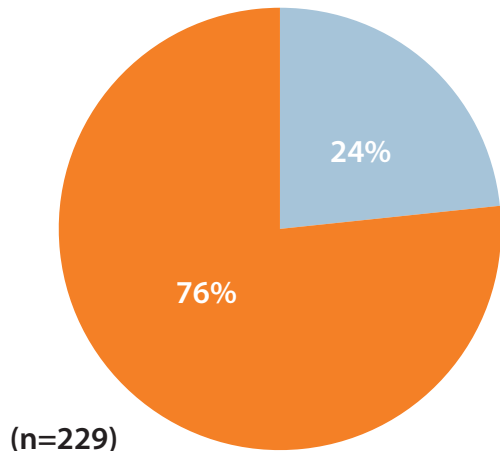
Of the 229 children screened in Foster Care by 211 LA, 76% were “at risk” for developmental delays and disabilities, and received care coordination to ensure timely and effective delivery of early intervention services. Children at “low risk” were connected to early care, education, and other education programs.

- **56%** of the children who received care coordination were **confirmed** after intense follow-up as having **received services**<sup>1</sup> from one or more of the referral agencies.
- **43%** of the children who received care coordination were **connected**<sup>2</sup> to a program.
- **1%** of the children were unable to be reached after multiple follow-up attempts.

<sup>1</sup> Received Services: confirmation from a parent/caregiver or a referral organization that a child screened received intervention services

<sup>2</sup> Connected to Services: child screened is linked to the identified referral agencies and is going through the approval process to receive the intervention services

Developmental Screening Results

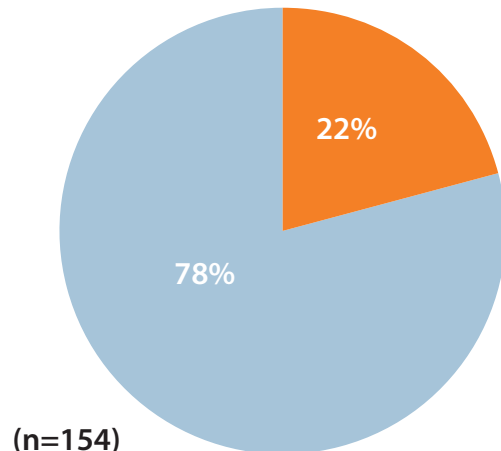


(n=229)

High to Moderate Risk

Low Risk

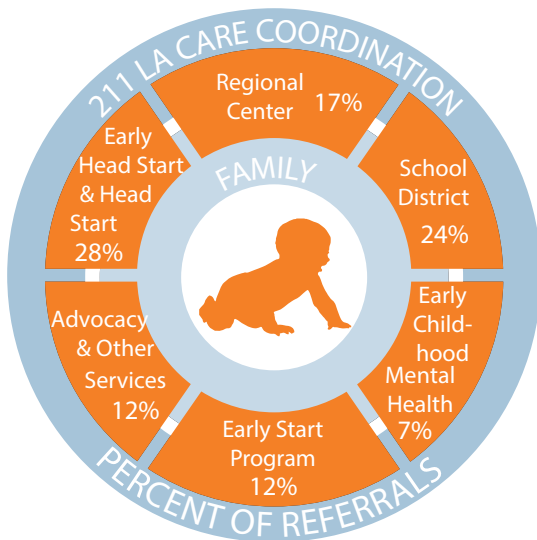
Autism Screening (Modified Checklist for Autism Toddlers) for Children 16-48 Months in Foster Care



(n=154)

Negative Screen

Positive Screen



Through the innovative and effective Children’s Court Project, 211 LA has created a unique and important opportunity to work closely with Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, Children’s Law Center attorneys, CASA, the Alliance for Children’s Rights, Regional Centers, School Districts, Early Childhood Mental Health providers, Early Head Start and Head Start, and other family-serving, community-based organizations. 211 LA implements formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with critical programs serving young children in foster care (0-5).

Reference: Developmental Screening Pilot Data for Children in Foster Care is from Outcome Data January 2012 through September 2014.

